

Toxic substances and their health effects

- chemicals in weapons of mass destruction (e.g., sarin nerve gas) - death, respiratory failure
- heavy metals (e.g., lead, cadmium, arsenic, uranium, mercury) - death, coma, brain damage, cancer, kidney failure, lung disease, birth defects
- dioxins, furans - cancer, maybe endometriosis, diabetes
- polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) - cancer
- organochlorine pesticides - endocrine disruptors, cancer
- organophosphate pesticides - respiratory failure, death
- volatile organic compounds (e.g., benzene, vinyl chloride) - cancer, birth defects, asthma, respiratory disease, possible heart disease
- aromatic amines - cancer
- polyaromatic hydrocarbons (e.g., benzo-a-pyrene) - cancer